

# Alma Otter

A newsletter for alumni and friends of California State University, Monterey Bay

## Otter profile —

### Doug Harris has the right stuff

Doug Harris ('98 MA-ID) vividly recalls his hectic schedule during 1998. At the same time he was earning a degree at CSUMB, Harris was holding down a full-time job and serving as the executive director of Athletics United for Peace (AUP), a non-profit organization in Oakland dedicated to helping troubled youth overcome challenges through athletics.

A lifelong athlete, Doug is a former Berkeley High School basketball star and NAIA All-American at Central Washington. He had played overseas for four years, after being the Golden State Warriors' No. 8 draft pick in 1983.



*Doug Harris recalls his busy days as a grad student at CSUMB.*

"Thirteen years ago, after volunteering to set up exhibition basketball teams for the AUP on a part-time basis, its departing executive director asked me to take his post," Doug recalls. "At the time, I was a full-time recreation and parks professional for the city of Richmond, but I also found the time to serve AUP."

Once he began attending grad school at CSUMB, Doug faced more complications. Commuting from Oakland to the university on an almost daily basis, he juggled an already hectic schedule to

*(continued on page 10)*



*David Kashaveroff poses with Corinne Marrinan, co-producer of A Note of Triumph, with their coveted Oscar in Hollywood on Academy Awards night.*

### Alum's film wins an Oscar

David Kashaveroff ('01 TAT) wasn't thinking about winning an Oscar as he toiled long hours on various film projects in Hollywood. His work as a film editor was profiled in the Winter 2006 issue of this newsletter.

When one of the films he'd worked on was nominated for an Oscar, David was invited to the gala Academy Awards event in March. He was overwhelmed when *A Note of Triumph: The Golden Age of Norman Corwin* won in the documentary short subject category. It chronicles the lasting impact of radio broadcasting legend Norman Corwin's landmark piece, "On a Note of Triumph," which aired on the evening of VE Day in 1945.

David produced all the computer animation for the film. His outstanding creativity and the achievement of his colleagues have now been recognized with their industry's top award. ♦



## Full speed ahead: Pursuing a career and fighting cancer

Many young people from America's small towns never leave the place where they grew up. **Heather Staat** ('06 LS) is a notable exception. From the rural town of Pioneer in the Sierra foothills, Heather was drawn to CSUMB because of its diversity — and a determination to achieve her dream of becoming a teacher.

At the 2006 honors convocation, Heather was honored with the Alumni Vision Award in recognition of the formidable obstacles she overcame to earn her degree.

In November 2003, while students were preparing for finals, Heather was diagnosed with neuroblastoma, a cancer usually found in infants and young children. Doctors removed a baseball-size tumor in her abdomen. Unfortunately, not all the cancerous growth could be removed. This required her to endure an exhaustive regimen of chemotherapy and radiation treatments.

To help cope with her illness, Heather formed the People Fighting Against Cancer (PFAC) club on campus. This helped her adjust to her own condition and helped educate others in her age group about the early detection and treatment of cancer.

"The PFAC club aimed to educate our community," Heather says. "We would make presentations in classes about early detection and early age diagnosis. We made the campus more generous and giving; the presentations encouraged students to take part in giving to cancer research and the club."

It's not unusual for people in Heather's position to dismiss their dreams and focus solely on their health. Throughout this ordeal, Heather chose to endure the

arduous cancer treatments — and stay committed to her education, her duties as a resident advisor and her goal of becoming a teacher. Students visited her while she was hospitalized and threw a welcome home party when she returned.

In the award nomination application, John Swanson, Heather's professor, wrote that she completed his class with A+ work.

Heather's cancer returned in February 2006. She began chemotherapy treatments again and will undergo a year-long series of experimental treatments starting this summer. More than ever, she's committed to becoming a teacher by completing her credential and a master's in education.

Now engaged, Heather looks forward to building a life with her fiancé, **Josh Goin** ('01 BUS), on a ranch somewhere with "lots of horses." ❖



*Dr. Dianne Harrison assumed presidential duties at CSUMB in June.*

### CSUMB has a new president

Following a nationwide search that began last summer, the CSU Board of Trustees has named Dr. Dianne Harrison, former vice president for academic quality and external programs at Florida State University, as CSUMB's second president.

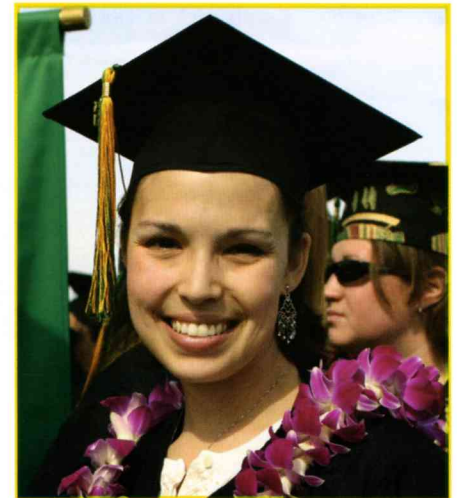
Harrison has served in a variety of capacities, all with Florida State University, during her 30 years of educational leadership. For the past year, as vice president for academic quality and external programs, she oversaw all academic program reviews, new dean orientation, regional institutional accreditation, international programs and distance learning. She was also chairwoman of the FSU Athletics Committee.

Harrison holds a Ph.D. in social work from Washington University in St. Louis, a master's in social work and a B.A. in American Studies, both from the University of Alabama.

During a visit to CSUMB, she told community members that she sees the opportunity for growth at CSUMB "in buildings, in programs and in enrollment. Growth implies change, and it implies innovation."

Harrison listed the top three challenges at CSUMB as "securing the resources to make the master plan a reality; recruiting students and faculty; and finding sufficient revenue from private sources to make this campus great," adding "that's a primary responsibility of the president."

President Harrison assumed the CSUMB presidency in June.



*Heather Staat at 2006 commencement*



## Trish Sullivan uses art as a way to help youth

As a young child, Trish Sullivan ('02 VPA) was quick to see that a splash of colors arranged in an artful way could delight the eye. This intrigue with color and design led her to a consuming interest in art. Now, after successfully balancing family responsibilities, work and college, she's embarked on a career helping young people to develop skills as artists and to understand the important contribution of art to culture.

Trish had several reasons for attending CSUMB. First, the university offered the Visual and Public Art major, with a focus on community involvement. CSUMB was also close to home, enabling her to continue working while attending classes.

For her Capstone project, Trish founded a nonprofit community arts organization, Artistas Unidos — Artists United. She's now its executive director, promoting and supporting the arts for the underserved population of Salinas and South County.

To prepare herself to manage AU as it grows, she will earn an M.A. in Arts Administration this summer from Goucher College in Baltimore. This is a limited residency program, meaning that several weeks of study takes place on campus over the summer, with the rest of the course work done online.

"It's been an amazing three years, and I've learned how to run every aspect of AU, as well as become an advocate for the arts locally and statewide," Trish says.

"I've been fortunate to work with the Visual Arts Department at Hartnell College and the Hartnell College Gallery to bring inclusive community art exhibits and events, such as *Bailando con la Muerte* — *Dancing with Death*, a multicultural celebration for El Día de los Muertos — the Day of the Dead, to the public, free of charge.

"AU has worked with the Valley Art Gallery, Sasoontsi Gallery, the PaperWing Theatre Company and Ariel Theatrical, along with local museums and historic sites, to develop and present the First Friday Art Walk."

The art walk in Oldtown Salinas is a free, family-friendly community event held on the first Friday of every month. There's something for everyone to enjoy: live music, visual arts, children's art activities, dance and theatre performances.

"I've been an artist as long as I can remember. I feel that I'm lucky to be from an era that encouraged creative play, problem solving skills, and critical thinking in kids. These are rarely taught or promoted in our society today; rather, television, video games, and computer technology are endorsed for our young people," Trish says.

"These activities discourage interpersonal skills and hands-on learning, which is so important for retention. I was also fortunate

to have had several inspirational mentors during my youth, and have made a personal vow to repay the debt I owe to my teachers through community work with local teens."

Trish notes that the most fulfilling work she does is with local teens on art projects and arts management.

"These young people are so bright; they come up with great ideas and are willing to think outside the box when given the chance. Our future is in good hands if all of us could just encourage our youth to achieve more. Lofty expectations from adult role models result in higher accomplishments for our youth."

Trish was recently honored as a "Champion of the Arts." The Arts Council of Monterey County recognized her for the work she's been doing for eight years to promote arts and culture, as well as building bridges between diverse cultures through the

arts throughout Salinas and the Salinas Valley.

Every year, Trish works with a group of teens to organize and present ArtSong, a Salinas Union High School District student art exhibit. She also volunteers to assist teens from East Salinas and South County to create large sculptures for First Night Monterey — the New Year's Eve celebration for families in Monterey.

"The Visual and Public Art program at CSUMB challenged me in many ways — just like real life. I was attending CSUMB when the tragedy of Sept. 11 happened, and the dialogue between students during this time was eye-opening for me," Trish says.

"Since I had studied Islam and Muslim culture, as well as the history of Islamic Spain, I was able to provide an alternative view of the culture than the popular media presented. Many of the young students had never known about Islam

before 9-11 and were interested to have a different perspective."

In 1996, Trish received the Boronda International Study Scholarship and spent a year in Spain to learn about Islamic Spain. "This experience," she says, "prepared me to deal with the tragedy of Sept. 11, to not be afraid, and to not blame all Muslim people for the actions of a few."

Trish has a 22-year-old daughter, Tara, who attends the University of Arizona. Trish's partner, Dan Beck, is a local artist and musician who, she says, is just as passionate about community involvement and arts participation as she is. ♦



Trish Sullivan was honored in January by the Arts Council of Monterey County.



## Their service to the community continues after graduation

Learning the importance of service to the community has long been the distinctive characteristic of a CSUMB education. For alumni, the challenge is to take that practical experience and integrate it into one's professional and personal life.

When CSUMB added a student leadership program to its Service Learning curriculum in the summer of 1996, it gave students the opportunity to get more hands-on experience and place them in service learning leadership roles. Over 100 students have since participated in this program.

To celebrate the 10th anniversary of the first leadership summer program, the Service Learning Institute recently held a panel discussion titled

"After CSUMB: How to Live Lives of Commitment and Action."

Three former participants who continue to serve their communities were featured speakers. **Judith Flores Carmona** ('01 HCOM) is a Ph.D. student at the University of Utah and works with the growing Hispanic community in Salt Lake City. **Karly Edwards** ('05 GS) works as an organizer for the Service Employees International Union of Santa Clara County. **Manny Arenivaz** ('02 BUS) works as the volunteer coordinator for the Boys and Girls Clubs of Monterey County.

The panel was moderated by Tania Mitchell, coordinator of the leadership program. The panel's focus was on how the skills learned by students in their service learning courses can be put to use after graduation, and how alumni can continue to serve their communities.

"CSUMB nurtures activism within you," says Judith. "It can be hard to keep that when you step out of school. It's in everyone, even if they aren't aware of it. It empowers the students here."

Karly says that the limited resources for doing service work in the public sector can be frustrating. "There's a lack of access for the public," she says, noting that many people are not aware of the public help programs available in their own community.

Manny agrees, adding that challenging stereotypes is also difficult, especially when it comes to potential donors. Many com-

munity members are racist without realizing it, and he's had to learn how to communicate effectively with them without becoming confrontational. "At the end of the day," Manny says, "I ask myself 'Can I be happy with what I did that day and what I had to confront?'"

All three alums described how their work makes them feel they are helping to change the world, instead of sitting idly by and complaining about it. "It's a chance for everyone to give back to a community that has provided so much," says Manny. "Get to know the area you live in; meet the people who make the community."

Judith agrees, adding that it's important to get immersed in the community and its cultures.

Says Karly, "There's a huge support base at CSUMB and definite goals and tasks. There's a lot less support outside, and it's harder to organize people who aren't in need of grades or class credits."

Adds Manny, "Power dynamics change, too. You have to learn who to go to with problems, or when you need to deal with things yourself," stressing that there's no instructor or coordinator to turn to while on the job.

"There are systems against the idea of community service and change," says Judith. "It's hard to get past them. You need to work to open their eyes to the idea."

At the end of the discussion, the moderator asked each of the participants to give one piece of advice for current and graduating students.

"We aren't going to save the world," Karly says, "but we can each be a Band-Aid to try and fix individual things."

Manny continues, "Own your experience here. It's easy to point out social injustices, but you have to remember that you can perpetuate systems of oppression within the community by what you do. Think about your place in the community. Be self-reflective and have an open mind."

Judith concludes by adding, "Remember always where you came from. You can get lost if you forget your roots." She notes that social justice and social change look very different in new places, and that grads can't expect them to look the same as they did when they were students at CSUMB.

For more on this topic, see page 6. ♦



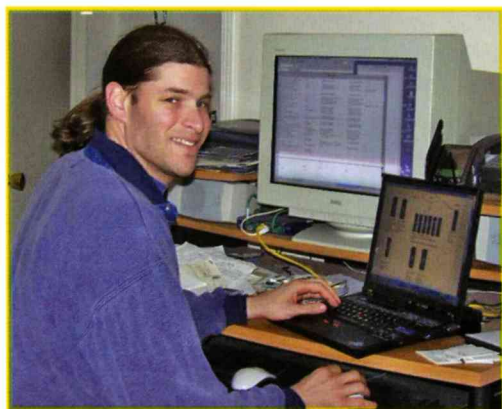
*From left, Karly Edwards ('05 GS), Manny Arenivaz ('03 BUS) and Judith Flores Carmona ('01 HCOM).*



## Switching majors launches Joel Kaufman's high-tech career

When he first arrived at CSUMB, Joel Kaufman ('98 TMAC) set his sights on studying marine engineering — but an unexpected development sent him on a totally different career path.

"When I was considering where to go, I found an interesting limitation in transferring from a junior college to a four-year school," Joel recalls. "At the time, the UC would not allow students to transfer as a junior without their foreign language requirement complete, but the CSU would.



*Joel Kaufman tackles yet another technical problem at Network Appliance.*

Once I knew that, I started looking at various CSUs and what struck me about CSUMB was a listing for a marine engineering program."

When he arrived at CSUMB, he was surprised that the marine engineering program was cancelled after he'd been accepted and had already moved onto the campus before the semester started. Once he decided to stay at the university, he switched his major to TMAC.

"One of the requirements of the TMAC program was to get an internship and I wound up working part-time for Silicon Graphics. I couldn't have asked for a cooler company to work for at the time, and it gave me a nice entrée into the industry. I went from Silicon Graphics to Hewlett-Packard for six months, and then on to Network Appliance."

Today, Joel is a systems engineer at Network Appliance, Inc., a network storage company with almost 5,000 employees headquartered in Sunnyvale. Joel's first position with the high-tech company involved analyzing customer storage requirements, "architecting" solutions and coordinating with the sales department to sell the solutions. He's since moved on to a senior position where he makes sure that engineers who work for Network's resellers are well trained on the company's technology, competitive products and relationships with customers. His territory includes Northern California, Oregon, Washington and Alaska.

"Working for a company that's growing provides opportunities to change jobs within the company," says Joel. "I'm currently contemplating moving within the company to a national or global position as an encryption and security specialist.

"It's most fulfilling when I can take a concept or technology and work on how to really explain it to someone. When I see the light bulb click on in someone's head and they truly understand, it's just great."

Joel also enjoys the wide range of people he meets. "Over the

years, that's included everyone from dot-com system administrators in San Francisco to the CEO of a Fortune 10 company."

Although successful in the company, Joel must endure long days, much travel and tight deadlines. Reflecting on this regimen, he's not sure he wants to stay an employee forever.

"In the future, I want to be my own boss and either run a storage consulting firm or pursue one of my hobbies."

While at CSUMB, he says, "I was fortunate to have one or two teachers who I really clicked with and who gave me some good advice and direction. I cannot emphasize enough the importance of the internship on my career. I already had plenty of work experience, having taken seven years off before returning to school, but how about being given the opportunity to go and network in my chosen field and get a taste for whether I would really want to work in that area? It was worth its weight in gold."

Joel was an early supporter and contributor to the Alumni Book Drive. He recalls why: "Going to the CSUMB library and trying to do research on a number of topics and finding that it was a bit sparse.

"As good as online references are, you don't see a lot of e-books. Why aren't there many online textbooks? Being able to flip through a chapter and find informa-

tion because you remember that it was at the bottom left of a page about a half-inch in, with a paragraph break two-thirds of the way down the page. That's why. I just don't see that context being available electronically for a long time. And you never need to recharge a book."

A resident of Pleasant Hill, Joel has been married for three years. And while his career involves the latest digital technology, he has other interests far removed from that of his livelihood. One is fencing. He participates in U.S. Fencing Association matches and was once named one of the top 32 fencers in the country. Another hobby is making custom parts for his brother's Cobra kit car in a machine shop at home.

Joel's advice for other alums starting a career: "Find something you enjoy — or is a means to an end of something you enjoy. Make sure it's something you're good at or know you can become good at. Try not to do something that makes you feel too comfortable in your position, because then there's no challenge. Network, network and network in your field! You never know who will give you a related lead that takes you somewhere." ♦

*"Find something you enjoy — or is a means to an end of something you enjoy. Make sure it's something you're good at or know you can become good at. Try not to do something that makes you feel too comfortable in your position, because then there's no challenge."*

— Joel Kaufman



## Integrating social justice into a career

Integrating the concepts of social justice learned at CSUMB into a real-life career is not always easy, but alumnae **Angela Louie** ('99 LS) and **Rhiannon O'Leary** ('04 SBS) have done so. To discuss their career successes, they were invited to CSUMB as keynote speakers for the recent 10th annual Social Justice Colloquium, entitled "Bringing it Home with Justice."



*Angela Louie*

Angela emphasized how the university helped her develop a passion leading to her present career and discovering her own leadership qualities. She's currently the director of Excelsior Family Connections, providing family support services in the Excelsior district of San Francisco. She encouraged students to get involved with the world around them by developing successful programs. She reminded the audience that a rebirth of activism is needed more than ever with the recent passing of Rosa Parks and Coretta Scott King.

"If you're moved by what's happening in the world today, that's your call to action," she says. "Your off-the-wall idea could be the idea that can save or improve someone's life."

Angela says that her greatest accomplishment since leaving CSUMB was developing an anti-hate training program, focused

in the impoverished Bayview Hunter's Point area. Her program graduated 20 students in December, prompting interest in the program from school districts and offers of funding from major foundations.

Rhiannon, who helped create the university's EMPOWER club, discussed how she settled on a career path as a result of her activism while attending the university. She described how creating justice involves making effective use of people skilled in areas different from one's own area of expertise.

"CSUMB is a microcosm of the real world," Rhiannon says. "I would not have the résumé I have without the opportunities I gained while at CSUMB."

Rhiannon has interned with playwright Eve Ensler, best known for *The*

*Vagina Monologues*.

She now works with JM2

Productions, the company that produced *The Vagina Monologues*.

True to her passion, she's

helped to create a month-long

campaign in New York City

to end violence against women,

hoping to establish that city as

the first safe haven for

women. ❖



*Rhiannon O'Leary*

## Have you thought about becoming a teacher?

As a career, teaching poses difficult challenges but offers the ultimate reward of helping young people become good and productive citizens. The need for talented K-12 teachers has never been greater, with school districts scrambling to comply with the No Child Left Behind law.

CSUMB's School of Education was recently awarded its third U. S. Department of Education Title II Teacher Quality Enhancement grant. The \$2.5 million grant, called Highly Qualified Avenue (HQA), is addressing the shortage of highly qualified teachers in the tri-county area. It directly assists partner school districts to attract teachers for difficult content areas, including math, science and special education. The grant addresses No Child Left Behind requirements, which mandate that all teachers be highly qualified.

The HQA grant is funded through September 2008.

Intern teachers in math, science and special education are eligible for \$3,500 scholarships to help pay for a year of student teaching in partner school districts. Current teachers in need of a credential will be provided stipends and coursework to become qualified under No Child Left Behind.

An overwhelming number of current middle school math and science teachers, currently authorized to teach under a multiple-subject credential, will not be authorized to teach math or science after 2006. Under No Child Left Behind, these teachers must become subject-matter qualified via additional coursework or by exam.

For details, contact the HQA project at 831-582-4628 or via e-mail at [teachmb@csumb.edu](mailto:teachmb@csumb.edu).



## Get set for the Alumni 'Face-Off'

The Otter volleyball team is busily preparing for the 2006 season with the third annual Alumni "Face-Off" volleyball match to be held August 18 at 7 p.m. All Otter volleyball alumni are invited to join the team. The match coincides with the start of the fall semester and the opening of the 2006 season.



The Otters now play in the tough California Collegiate Athletic Association (CCAA), which features four or five nationally ranked teams every year. Last season, the Otters faced regionally and nationally ranked teams in 12 of their 28 matches. During their two seasons in the conference, the Otters have become a team that commands respect.

The 2006 team will feature senior setter and co-captain Nicki Sanderson and record-setting junior outside hitter Brittany Etchings. Jennifer Holda has graduated, leaving a hole in the Otter defense, but great things are expected from her replacement, incoming freshman Katie Bos.

The alumni match is an important step to prepare the Otters for the upcoming season. The match is an opportunity to renew friendships and get an on-court look at the 2006 Otters. Changes in this year's NCAA playoff schedule have shortened the Otters' preseason significantly, making the 2006 alumni match especially important.

If you are interested in participating, contact the CSUMB Athletic Office at 831-582-3015. ♦

## Student auction raises \$83,000

For eight years, CSUMB has raised money for student scholarships through the "Have a Heart for Students" dinner and auction. Every year, the event has helped scholarship programs support student achievement. This year's dinner and auction raised over \$83,000 to help provide scholarships to the 65 percent of CSUMB students who receive financial aid. Through the efforts of alumni and association board members, \$6,365 of the total amount was raised for the Alumni Scholarship Fund. The Alumni Association would like to acknowledge the generosity of the following donors.

### Individuals:

Gulizar Baggson  
Mindi Cherry  
Michael and Wendy Frascioni  
Jennifer Golomb  
Trina Coffman-Gomez  
Leonard Han  
Nicole Mendoza  
Stephanie Regevig  
Greg Riley  
Steven Russell  
Judith Swartz  
Stephen and Lisa Thomas  
Cheryl Trotter  
Lynn Velkov

### Companies and organizations:

Absolutely Fabulous  
Annieglass  
Byington Vineyard & Winery

## Legislature hears from alumni

When alumni get the opportunity to talk with state legislators on a one-to-one basis, the process becomes a powerful tool to help lawmakers understand the critical needs of CSU students.

The CSU system held its annual Alumni Legislative Day in Sacramento in March, with over 300 CSU alums descending on the capital. A contingent of CSUMB alumni discussed support for the governor's upcoming budget compact. They also advocated restoring \$7 million for outreach programs, such as EOP and Summer Bridge, to benefit student success and strengthen CSUMB's Vision.



*Pausing in the California State Capitol on Alumni Legislative Day are, from left, Stephanie Regevig, alumni relations director, with alumnae Laura Chen, Courtney Kuhn, Nicole Mendoza and Sara McClellan.*

The alumni group advocated for the Higher Education Infrastructure Bond to be placed on the ballot. This multi-year bond is needed to improve existing CSU facilities.

They also asked legislators to co-sponsor the Cal-Grant reform bill, Assembly Bill 2813. For students applying for financial aid through Cal Grant A, the bill raises the age limit to 27, rather than 24, to reflect the average age of students seeking a degree in California.

Following the full day of legislative appointments, a social event allowed CSUMB alums the opportunity to network with grads from other CSU campuses.

To take part in next year's Alumni Legislative Day, send an e-mail to [alumni@csumb.edu](mailto:alumni@csumb.edu) with your contact information. It's a great way to get involved, have fun and help your alma mater succeed. ♦

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# Otter Fodder

## 2005



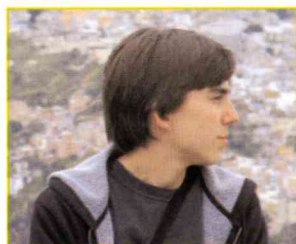
**Daniel Delacruz** (TMAC) is being awarded a scholarship to attend the Naval Postgraduate School. To date, he's earned over \$100,000 in other scholarships. In 2005, he was one of 12 recipients of the CSU system's William Randolph Hearst/CSU Trustees' Award for Outstanding Achievement. Daniel maintains a

website dedicated to providing assistance to students in locating scholarships to achieve their academic goals. His long-term goal is to be a civil liberties attorney, with an emphasis in Internet technology. Daniel lives in Salinas.

## 2004

**Lucas Salazar** (SBS) is an ESL and Spanish teacher for the Department of Education at the High School for Civil Rights in Brooklyn, New York. He also works as a Teach for America Corps member. As a musician, "I'm hoping to break out of the open mic ring soon to have my own shows as a solo classical guitarist. Through education and art, I see myself as having an impact on the community." Lucas lives in Brooklyn.

**Erica Hemenway** (TAT) is the lead front desk agent for The Spa at Pebble Beach. This February saw the world premier of her script, *Waiting to Dance*, marking her professional debut as a playwright. It was presented by the Renegade Theatre Experiment in San José. Erica is involved with the Campus California Teachers Group, a non-profit international group that trains teachers and volunteers for AIDS outreach and education programs in sub-Saharan Africa. Erica currently lives in Monterey, but is planning to relocate to Namibia or Mozambique to continue her work.



**Erin Lawley** (HCOM) is a full-time sports writer for the *Napa County Register*. She covers high school, college and professional sports, including varsity football, college basketball, NASCAR, the Giants and the Raiders. A professional highlight was riding in a two-seater Indy car with Arie Luyendyk around Infineon Raceway's track in Sonoma. "We topped out at 160 miles per hour," she says. "People pay hundreds of dollars to participate in something like this. For me, it was just a perk of the job." Erin lives in Napa.



## 2003

**Gabriela Lopez Chavez** (HCOM) is coordinator of the California Latino 5-a-Day Campaign public health initiative for the Central Coast region, working out of La Manzana Community Resources in Watsonville. She earned an M.A. in Mexican-American Studies from San José State (summer 2006). Gabriela lives in Marina.

## 2002

**Laurel Anderson** (HCOM) is the cultural affairs specialist for the city of Ventura and a volunteer at the Boys & Girls Clubs. She is currently pursuing a master's degree in youth development through Clemson University. Laurel lives in Ventura.



**Rian Schoeffling** (SBS) works at the Pepperdine University School of Law as executive assistant to its dean, Kenneth W. Starr. As a volunteer, she works for the Ventura County Special Olympics, where she helps coach volleyball and basketball teams. Rian lives in Calabasas.

## 2001

**Eric Sustaita** (MIE) is the interim coordinator of ASAP at CSUMB. He earned an MBA from CSU Dominguez Hills. Beside leading the tutorial center on campus, he sits on the Strategic Planning Renewal Committee and teaches computer courses. Eric lives in Marina.



**Bryan Shaw** (HCOM) teaches health at Seaside High School, in addition to coaching varsity football and club lacrosse. He's an active member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and the National Coalition-Building Institute. "I will also be starting the history master's program at Cal Berkeley next year. My long-range goal is to teach and coach at the college level," he says. Bryan lives in Pacific Grove.



**Dan Loeser** (TAT) is a network systems administrator for Clear Channel Communications at KION-TV in Salinas. He is planning to start work on his IT certifications and is starting a small business, building scratch posts for cats. Dan married **Nicole Mendoza** (TAT/TMAC 2000) in September 2005. They live in Salinas with their two cats, Pedro and Zorro.



## 2000



**Victoria Diaz Castro** (VPA) is a seventh- and eighth-grade teacher for the Livingston Union School District. She earned a single subject teaching credential in art and is working on a credential in history. Victoria wants to start a service learning program at her school to link art and photography to local service agencies. She resides in Livingston, Calif.

**Todd Leavitt** (BUS) is the assistant manager for the men's department at a Polo Ralph Lauren store in New York City. He has participated in AIDS walks in Los Angeles and New York. Todd lives in New York City.

**Mayra Llamas** (MIE) is the assistant director for Residential Education at CSUMB. She earned an M.A. in education counseling and student personnel from San José State. Mayra is getting married this summer and will be moving to the Sacramento area. She currently lives in Marina.



## 1999

**Gina Hamilton** (ESSP) is a project manager and environmental planner for Pacific Municipal Consultants. She is chairperson for the environmental committee of Soroptimist International. A former CSUMB Alumni Association board member, Gina says, "The multidisciplinary nature of the ESSP program has translated directly to what I do for a living." She resides in South Lake Tahoe.



## 1998

**Christopher Schamber** (SBS) is the owner of Sentient Productions, a music resource management company. He is also a part-time high school teacher. Christopher has continued his education by earning a ministry credential. He lives in West Richmond, Wash.

## 1997

**Alexander Ribeau** (LS) earned a multiple subject teaching credential from CSUMB in 1998. He's a regional admissions counselor with the College of Santa Fe in New Mexico. Based in California, Alexander manages a six-state recruitment territory. He lives in Mission Viejo. ♦



## Alumni Tailgate Party at A's Game

On Saturday, June 3, the third Alumni Tailgate Party took place at McAfee Coliseum in Oakland. Once again, the CSUMB Alumni Association partnered with the Alumni Association of Cal State East Bay, (formerly Cal State Hayward) to kick off a great day of fun. Fans satisfied their hunger with hamburgers, hot dogs, veggie burgers, chips, cookies and soft drinks. The alums had plenty of opportunity to mingle before the Oakland A's beat the Minnesota Twins 2-1. ♦



*Alums enjoy the sun as the A's take on the Twins.*

## Get help with career development

If you're a member of the CSUMB Alumni Association, you have free access to OtterTRAK job listings to find part-time campus jobs, internships and full-time entry-level positions. There's also information on graduate school fairs, workshops, on-campus interviews and more.

For résumé help, job search and grad school advising, you have the opportunity to meet with a career counselor. It's free for 90 days after your date of graduation. For unlimited counseling sessions for one year, the cost is \$75 for CSUMB Alumni Association members. For alumni who are not members of the association, the cost is \$100 for unlimited counseling sessions for a year or \$25 per single session.

For more details about these benefits and other assistance, visit the [career.csumb.edu](http://career.csumb.edu) website or call 831-582-3845. ♦

## Send us your e-mail address!

This summer, the Alumni Association will start an alumni e-newsletter to keep CSUMB grads informed about announcements, upcoming events and activities. To start a free subscription to the e-newsletter, send your e-mail address to [alumni@csumb.edu](mailto:alumni@csumb.edu).



## Doug Harris

(continued from page 1)

keep his career on track while accommodating the demands of his classes.

Given his interests, it was logical that Doug's interdisciplinary studies at CSUMB would combine recreation, sports and film.

"TAT was really attractive to me when I came here in 1996. They were ushering in digital technology, and this was the road I was trying to go down in developing a new media division for AUP."

Building upon the technical knowledge he gained in TAT, Doug established a 10-week media arts program at AUP to introduce teens to digital video and multimedia. He also produced a series of award-winning documentaries, titled *An Exploration of Our History*, to chronicle and preserve the history of the communities in Contra Costa County.

While at CSUMB, Doug conceived the idea for a documentary featuring noted sports and entertainment pioneer Don Barksdale, the first black National Basketball Association All-Star.

"I had met Don prior to the 1983 NBA draft," Doug recalls. "He was a scout for the Warriors, and he made a recommendation for the team to draft me. What I didn't know at the time, but found out later, was that he is a true pioneer in basketball."

"When it came time to do my Capstone, producing a film about Don came to mind, especially since he'd been in the Army at Fort Ord."

The resulting Capstone was a detailed plan to undertake the documentary upon graduation. The goal of the film, called *Bounce: The Don Barksdale Story*, was to raise the public's awareness of this legendary player. The film was completed in 2003 on the 50th anniversary of Barksdale's NBA All-Star game appearance.

Doug's long involvement with AUP's mission led to his appointment in 1999 to the post of non-governmental organization (NGO) representative to the United Nation's Department of Public Information.

"As part of our work with the UN, we were asked to work with the Hague Appeal for Peace. It was the 100th anniversary of the World Peace Conference. I was asked to bring a group of high school athletes from Berkeley, Oakland and Richmond as a delegation to the conference. It was great."

While he enjoys a large cheering section among the kids and communities he helps, Doug is well remembered by his former professors.

"Doug was a joy to work with. This project (Capstone) was a real passion for him. He's committed to kids, and he's great with them," says Dr. bobbi bonacé, Doug's thesis adviser.

Doug has never strayed far from his passions: helping kids in the impoverished areas of the East Bay succeed in their lives through athletics and producing documentary videos of value to the community. He expects this meaningful work to serve as his livelihood for many years to come. ♦

## New president meets alumni board members



At a dinner for new CSUMB President Dianne Harrison are current and past alumni board members, from left, Nicole Mendoza, Jennifer Golomb, Nile Dupstadt, Lisa Thomas, Dr. Harrison, James Frazier, Greg Riley, Yesenia Parra and alumni relations staff members Stephanie Regevig and Laura Chen.

## Auction donors

(continued from page 7)

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*Alma Otter* is published three times a year by CSUMB University Advancement. Content is based on information available at press time. Submissions are invited and encouraged. Please mail information to *Alma Otter*, CSUMB Alumni Association, 100 Campus Center, Bldg. 97, Seaside, CA 93955, send an e-mail to [alumni@csumb.edu](mailto:alumni@csumb.edu), or call 831-582-GRAD (4723).

## Are you giving up free money?

Do you know that many employers sponsor matching gift programs and will match any charitable contributions made by their employees? It's a benefit that many workers don't use. Some companies even match gifts made by retirees and spouses. This is an easy way to double, or sometimes triple, the impact of charitable giving.

To find out if your employer has a matching gift program, contact your human resources office. To make a contribution to CSUMB, send a completed and signed matching gift form from your company with your gift, and we'll do the rest.

Send the form to Shirley Coly, development officer, CSUMB, 100 Campus Center, Bldg. 97, Seaside, CA 93955. For more information, contact Shirley at 831-582-3549 or via e-mail at [give@csumb.edu](mailto:give@csumb.edu).

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## Alumni Association Financial Report

This is a summary of the Alumni Association's account balances through May, 31, 2006:

Foundation Account	\$83,399.99
Alumni Scholarship Fund	13,550.29
Lifetime Membership Endowment	36,243.00
Alumni Vision Scholarship Endowment	22,241.33

For more detailed information, please go to [www.csumbalumni.org](http://www.csumbalumni.org) and click on 'Association Meetings' under Membership.

— James Frazier, CFO

## Let's hear from YOU!

Share news about your career, accomplishments and changes in your life with fellow alums through *Alma Otter*. Send information, along with your address, phone, degree(s) earned, major, graduation year and a current color photo. To submit information online, go to the Otter Fodder Submission Form under Otter Fodder on the [csumbalumni.org](http://csumbalumni.org) website. By mail, send to *Alma Otter*, CSUMB Alumni Association, 100 Campus Center, Bldg. 97, Seaside, CA 93955. All Otter Fodder submissions are provided by the individuals profiled and printed as submitted. ♦





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## Upcoming alumni events

July 9	CSU Day at Dodger Stadium — Los Angeles
August 12	JPMorgan Chase Tennis Open at Home Depot Center — Carson
August 12	Winemaker's Celebration — Custom House Plaza, Monterey
August 18	Third annual Alumni "Face-Off" Volleyball Match — Otter Sports Center
October 13-15	Second annual CSUMB Homecoming Weekend

### 2006 JPMorgan Chase Tennis Open at Home Depot Center on August 12!

*Join CSU alumni to watch the top women players  
compete in world class tennis!*

#### JPMorgan Singles Semifinals & Doubles Finals

18400 Avalon Boulevard ~ Carson, CA 90746

**Saturday, August 12, 2006**

Tournament start ~ 7:00 P.M.

Ticket price ~ \$30.00

Price includes access to tennis tournament, youth clinic,  
and refreshments at the fireworks extravaganza  
on the VIP Stadium Club Patio.

Tickets must be purchased by July 31 and will  
be available at the WILL CALL window.

### CSU Day at Dodger Stadium on July 9!

*Join over 1,000 CSU alums as they take over  
Dodger Stadium!*

**Los Angeles Dodgers vs. San Francisco Giants**

**Sunday, July 9, 2006**

Game time ~ 1:10 P.M.

Ticket price ~ \$17.00

Seats are in the lower reserved section.

Tickets must be purchased by June 20 and will be  
available at the WILL CALL window.

Purchase tickets online at **CSUMBalumni.org** (click on Event Tickets) or call 831-582-3595.